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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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## BOOK REVIEWS

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
*Fortieth Session of the American Surgical Association*  
*The Seventh Session of the French Congress of Surgery*

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DECEMBER, 1895

# UNILATERAL LARYNGECTOMY FOR CANCER; NO RECURRENCE AFTER THREE YEARS.

By GEORGE H. MONKS, M.D.,  
OF BOSTON.

presented by the author





UNILATERAL LARYNGECTOMY FOR CANCER;  
NO RECURRENCE AFTER THREE  
YEARS.

By GEORGE H. MONKS, M.D.,

OF BOSTON.

THE patient, whose photograph accompanies this communication, I operated upon for cancer of the larynx on May 17, 1892.<sup>1</sup> The cancer (epithelioma) was confined to the right half of the larynx; and this half was removed entire, after preliminary tracheotomy had been done. Since recovering from the immediate effects of the operation the man has enjoyed good health, has been able to do his full work, and to speak intelligibly. There has been no sign of a return of the disease. The photograph was taken on May 17, 1895,—just three years after the operation. The patient still wears a tracheotomy-tube most of the time, as it is feared that, if he should discontinue its use, stenosis at the site of the operation might result, and thus embarrass his breathing. In the upper part of the tube is an opening which allows the air to pass to and from the mouth. The tube has been very carefully made for the patient by Dr. Kirk A. Garland, dentist, so that it fits with great accuracy. This is especially true of the shield, which has been shaped upon an exact mould of the contour of that part of the neck which surrounds the opening. The tube is held in place by tapes in the usual manner. The patient ordinarily wears a cork in the outer opening of the tube, so that almost all the air to and from the lungs passes through the mouth. It is extremely interesting to notice how easily the man can talk and make himself understood with

<sup>1</sup> The case was reported in the ANNALS OF SURGERY of July, 1893, with full details as to the operation and clinical history up to that time.



only one vocal cord. A few days ago he talked with me over the telephone, and I was able to understand all he said without the least difficulty. As non-recurrence for so long a time after operation seems, in these cases of laryngectomy, to be quite rare, the report of the present condition of this patient has added interest.



Monks's case of unilateral laryngectomy for carcinoma.  
Condition three years after operation.













